

been a bit startled when at lunch the student body, after singing the stately "Alma Mater," gave fifteen *Rah's* for the W.M.U.

After lunch, with students to guide them, the delegates were taken over the College from third-floor society halls to basement. "How splendid it seemed," the *Twig* reporter wrote, "to have these lovely women from all parts of North Carolina viewing our new college. They were kind enough to *seem* pleased, and our delight knew no bounds." The afternoon session, held in the Meredith auditorium, was largely given over to the pageant which the students presented, "The Light of the World."

At that session the W.M.U. made a contribution of \$120.00 toward the raising of \$2,000 for beautifying the campus, a campaign which the seniors had begun and into which the students were entering enthusiastically. To make money for the purpose, small businesses sprang up all over the campus; the *Twig* listed "collegiate bootblacks, laundresses, scrubwomen, shampooers, and employment bureaus, to say nothing of the shoe shop business." Some enterprising sophomores furnished dates at a quarter each.

Several of the faculty immediately began gardens which became little spots of beauty against the brick walls of the dormitories. Miss Allen, Miss Rhodes, and Miss Welch worked especially hard. To Miss Allen the College owes the first planting of shrubbery at the gate and the row of crape myrtles east of the temporary classroom buildings; and innumerable roses, chrysanthemums, and irises over the campus were of her planting. Miss Rhodes made a specialty of bulbs; her garden near the chimney—the picnicking spot close to the tennis courts—grew lovelier each year. The most distinctive of Miss Welch's plantings was the garden at the corner of Stringfield Hall and the dining room, with dogwood, cherry, spirea, redbud, and a scuppernong vine. Miss Lillie Grandy, a Chowan classmate and dear friend of Mrs. Charles E. Brewer, gave a bird bath for that garden in memory of Miss Welch. In honor of Mrs. Norwood, Miss Ida planted the "Octavia tree" between Faircloth and the old Bee Hive. The alumnae gave the cherry trees which border the driveway. Much later they planted in memory of

Miss Poteat and Dr. Carroll the two magnolia trees in the oval in front of Johnson Hall.

The terms Faircloth, Stringfield, and Johnson Hall are anachronisms when used of 1926, because Johnson Hall was then merely the administration building; and the four dormitories were A, B, C, and D. Students now sometimes wonder at the keys so marked as they do at an occasional piece of table silver marked B.U.W. In September, 1927, A and B were named Jones² and Faircloth; at the request of the alumnae, C became Vann Hall the next June. Stringfield Hall was named in April, 1930. The reasons for thus honoring the four have been given in earlier chapters.

Johnson Hall³ was named in 1931 in memory of Livingston Johnson, trustee of the College and member of the executive committee from 1901 till his death on February 8, 1931. As secretary of the Convention for fifteen years and editor of the *Recorder* for thirteen, he was called by Tom Bost of the *Greensboro Daily News* "the most influential and best beloved Baptist in North Carolina." In the Centennial issue of the *Biblical Recorder*, January 2, 1935, J. W. Bailey called him "the foremost Baptist of his generation," and added, "Such was the kindliness of his heart and the brightness of his faith that few paused to consider his remarkable intellectual capacity or his indefatigable application to his tasks." His level head, his kind heart, and his keen sense of humor were evident in all his relationships. Miss Paschal said that Dr. Vann consulted him oftener than he did any of the other trustees, and that he was known and loved by the whole student body. The minutes of the executive committee show that matters requiring especial tact were most often assigned to him, from investigating the questionable religious beliefs of one teacher to expostulating with another who at the dinner table had called the sweet potatoes "nasty."

Deeply interested as he was in every aspect of the denominational work, he regarded Meredith as "a peculiar treasure." A few months before his death, when the college

² The name was changed in October, 1952, to Brewer Hall. See p. 219.

³ Though it is always called Johnson Hall, the marker recently placed at the doorway gives the full name, "Livingston Johnson Administration Building."